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## SHELTER FOR BIRDS

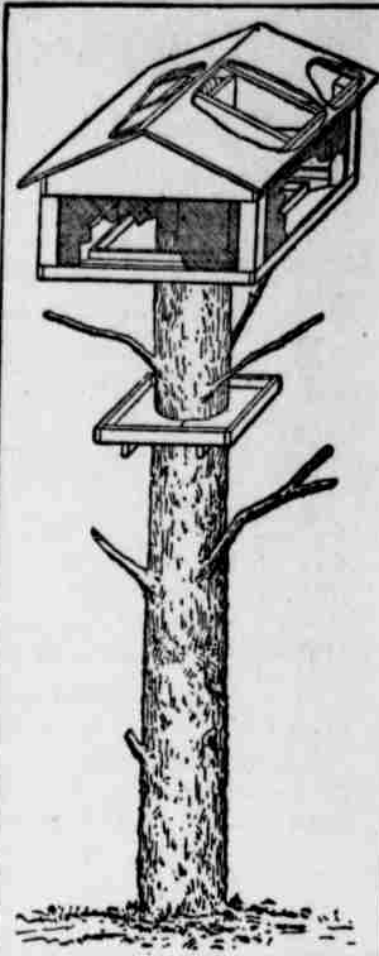
Particularly Desirable Where Edible Material Is Scarce.

Designs of Two Houses Given in Bulletin Issued by Agricultural Department—Importance of Protecting the Milk Cans.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The farmer who will build a food shelter and furnish an abundance of food in it will find that many birds of value to him as insect-destroyers, will haunt his premises. This is particularly true when there is a scarcity of bird food in the vicinity. The United States department of agriculture in a recently published bulletin on bird houses has offered designs for shelters that will protect food in all kinds of weather.

To induce birds to enter a food shelter, baits are first placed in a conspic-



Food Shelter for Attachment to Post—Roof Cut Away to Show Construction—Slides Made of Glass; Size of Panes 8 by 10 Inches.

ous place outside and the birds are led by degrees to enter the inclosure. Such food as suet, seeds, or cracked nuts will prove attractive as bait.

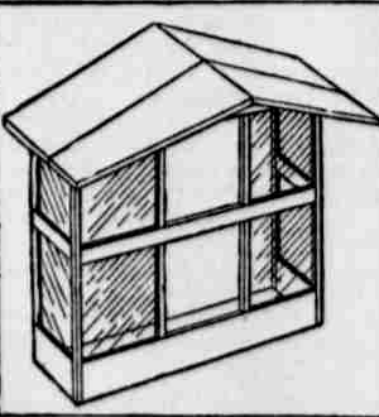
Two designs are given in the bulletin for adequate food shelters. The first may be attached to a tree, the other may be placed on top of a post or tree stub. The slides are made of glass. There is no bottom to either of these structures.

Besides protecting food, such a shelter will provide a place where one interested in birds can watch them conveniently.

If the farmer has neither the time nor inclination to make a shelter but still desires to attract valuable birds by putting out food, the next best thing is to fasten the bait to trunks or branches of trees or scatter it on the ground in sheltered places.

Desirable birds may be attracted by other means than food, particularly in summer. On warm days they appreciate fresh water for drinking and bathing. A shallow pool of varying depth, if only a foot across, becomes a center of attraction for all the birds in the vicinity, and it may be made with little effort and material. Only a small amount of cement is required, or, if that be lacking, a pan with stones in it, set in the ground will be equally serviceable.

Cats are particularly dangerous to birds, and should not be permitted



Food Shelter for Attachment to Trunk of Tree.

near the home-made bird pool during bathing hours or go near the food shelters.

Designs for simple and elaborate bird houses that will interest all bird lovers are given in a farmers' bulletin No. 609, which the United States department of agriculture has recently issued. It is entitled "Bird Houses, and How to Build Them," and will be sent free of charge to anyone requesting it from the department.

Protection for Milk Cans.

Milk that seems to be perfect is good when it leaves the farm, but when the consumer in bad condi-

temperature of the milk during transportation. A series of tests that has recently been completed shows the importance of surrounding the milk cans during hot weather with some appropriate insulating material which will effectually exclude the heat.

Even when milk is to be shipped only a short distance its temperature should not be higher than 50 degrees F. At this temperature bacteria will multiply, but the increase is slow and a few hours delay will result in no serious injury. In milk above 50 degrees F. the rate of bacteria growth is much more rapid. It follows that when the milk is to be shipped a long distance it must be loaded on the cars at a temperature much less than 50 degrees F. unless some efficient means is taken to prevent the temperature rising during the journey.

Perhaps the most practical way of accomplishing this is to wrap the cans in a pair of quilt jackets, wet burlap, or some other similar material. In the course of the recent experiments milk was hauled a distance of 13 miles in an average air temperature of 82.65 degrees F., the milk being shipped at a temperature of 50 degrees F. At the end of three hours the cans that were half-quilt jacketed showed a raise of only 5 1/2 degrees F.; those wrapped in wet burlap, a raise of 8 1/2 degrees F. Milk in cans that were left unprotected rose in the same time to a temperature of 78.5 degrees F., an increase of 28.5 degrees. This is much too high.

More elaborate methods of preserving milk during shipment by refrigeration are discussed in a professional bulletin just issued by the United States department of agriculture, which deals in a technical way with many types of refrigerating apparatus. The bulletin discusses fully the influence of time and temperature on bacteria in milk. It also contains elaborate diagrams illustrating the different methods employed in utilizing refrigeration, and the cost of operating them. This bulletin so long as the department's supply lasts will be sent free to all interested in the refrigeration of milk. Refrigeration, however, is, of course, not always possible, while any shipper can take the precaution of jacketing his milk cans.

## PROFIT MADE IN CAPONIZING

Increased Value of Birds Pays Well for Time and Labor—Operation Is Not Difficult.

As a vast majority of poultry owners and growers are not professional and keep the poultry incidentally and in the main for the use of the family, it is not surprising that so few poultry owners undertake to caponize the cockerels. But if all poultry owners were aware of the increase of profit that capons pay over the ordinary poultry I think a great many more would learn how to perform the operation and caponize all the surplus males every fall.

Even if it were done only to supply the use of them on one's own table it would pay well, says a writer in an exchange. As almost all farmers themselves emasculate all their surplus boars and bull calves, and some even the male colts, it is evident that with a little more skill they can emasculate the cockerels, and in most cases can sell them for from a half more up to twice as much as the cockerels would bring in the market.

As caponizing requires a keen eye and steady hand, as well as the special tools for doing the work, it would be well for one without experience, if he can get the opportunity, to see some one who is expert at the work and then make a few trials himself.

In order to make the job easier I think it will be well to etherize or chloroform the chicken, so that it will be absolutely still. However, if one knows how to do the job and has the tools it takes but a little while, and there is no reason to believe that the suffering will be great.

## CONCRETE OR CEMENT SILOS

Material Gaining Rapidly in Popularity Where Permanency Is Desired on Live Stock Farms.

The concrete and cement block construction is getting very popular in so far as silos are concerned; especially is this true where permanency is desired, such as established stock farms, etc.

In the past the high first cost of this construction has been the chief factor against its more extensive use, but this has been due to our insufficient knowledge as to the best and most economical methods in handling material.

The price of lumber has been steadily raising, while that of the good Portland cement has been decreasing, and good qualities can now be obtained at fair prices. It seems, therefore, to be generally conceded that the concrete or cement block silo will be the silo of the future.

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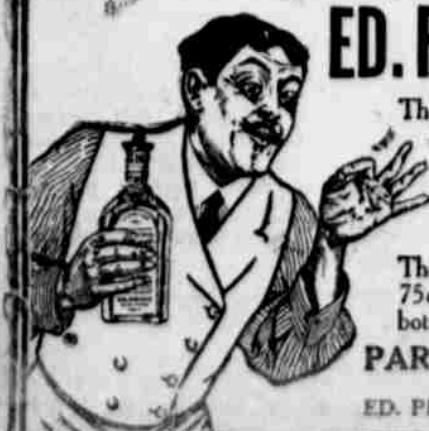
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